

CLAIMS

1. A method for producing a copolyester comprising at least
3-hydroxybutyric acid and hydroxyhexanoic acid as monomeric
5 units by a microorganism

which comprises culturing the microorganism with an oil
or fat containing lauric acid in constituent fatty acids as a
carbon source under condition phosphorus, a nutrient source,
being restricted.

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2. The method according to Claim 1,
wherein the oil or fat used as a carbon source contains
at least 10 % by weight of lauric acid in the constituent fatty
acids.

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3. The method according to Claim 1 or 2,
wherein the oil and fat used as a carbon source contains
at least one oil or fat selected from the group consisting of
palm kernel oil, coconut oil and a fractional oil or fat
20 obtainable by fractioning said oil or fat.

4. The method according to any of Claims 1 to 3,
wherein the productivity of the copolyester produced by
a microorganism is at least 40 g/L and a content of
25 3-hydroxyhexanoic acid unit in the copolyester is at least 4
mol%.

5. The method according to any of Claims 1 to 4,
wherein the microorganism is a transformed microorganism
30 incorporated with a polyester polymerase gene isolated from
Aeromonas caviae.

6. The method according to any of Claims 1 to 5,
wherein the microorganism is Ralstonia eutropha.

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